

These are all good government employees who did their jobs well in the service to this country. And I might just say one more thing. If you are so afraid of Federal influence, I dare you, I just dare you to submit a bill to privatize the Capitol Police that protects this building.

Now, this building does not take off and go anywhere. It does not fly, and Americans who do fly deserve just as good protection as the Members in this Chamber with a Federal force outside.

CREATING SAFE AIRLINES

(Mr. MEEKS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to end the rhetoric and do what is right for American people. We say that business must move on and we must continue as we did before. But we cannot do that unless we fix the problem of airline security. And clearly, as the Senate has said in a unanimous voice, the way we fix security in the airline industry is by federalizing it.

We must make sure that our airports are like our borders. We would not privatize the border line with individuals to monitor the borders, nor can we do that with our airlines.

If we want to go back to normal, if we want our business community to resume itself, we must make it safe for them to fly, because that is what is going to help stimulate our economy so we can get back to normal and we can begin to focus on the things that are important to all Americans. We cannot do it until people feel safe flying, and the only way we can do that is by federalizing.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2311, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 272 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 272

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2311) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which

I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

House Resolution 272 provides for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2311, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2002. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration and provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, this is a noncontroversial conference report, and I am asking for us to support this rule and the underlying legislation.

I want to congratulate the conferees on their hard work and urge passage of the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge Members to support this rule and this conference report. Both the House and the Senate passed this bill on a bipartisan basis, and this conference report also represents a bipartisan, bicameral compromise.

Additionally, this conference report contains provisions that are very important to the people that I represent in north Texas. It provides \$5.5 million in critical funding for a flood control project along Johnson Creek in Arlington, Texas. It provides \$10 million for the Dallas Floodway Extension, and it provides \$1.2 for the Trinity River Basin. The final funding that each of us will receive meets the needs identified by the Army Corps of Engineers and local authorities.

The conference report also provides \$1 million for a state of the art annex to the Science Center at Texas Wesleyan University, which serves neighborhood children as well as students in a historic inner-city neighborhood on the east side of Fort Worth, Texas.

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I also want to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) for working with me to fund these critical provisions for north Texas.

This is a good bill, Mr. Speaker, and the conferees should be commended for doing the best they could under the circumstances. But as many of them will tell us, they were hamstrung by the fact that the Senate originally passed these bills before September 11.

Since that infamous date, Mr. Speaker, all of us have become acutely aware of the massive security needs facing America. This bill does not reflect many of the priorities of today's new war against terrorism.

For instance, the conference report provides no additional funds to address terrorist threats related to nuclear weapons plants or Department of Energy labs. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) offered an amendment to beef up the Nation's nonprolifera-

tion activities that prevent terrorists from getting Russian nuclear materials. Indeed, the administration had proposed cutting \$98 million from this critical program.

Fortunately, this conference report restores \$81 million to this vital program, but that is still \$17 million below last year's level.

Overall, the Federal agencies funded by this bill have identified about \$1.2 billion in additional security needs, but this conference report funds only \$287 million of that, leaving us about \$900 million short.

Since September 11, Mr. Speaker, America's security needs have increased, not decreased. The safety of every American depends on whether this Congress and this President will invest more, not less, in meeting them.

So after we pass this conference report today, it is crucial that all of us work together to immediately ensure all of our homeland security needs are fully funded. There is no higher priority.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS).

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Alabama (Chairman CALLAHAN) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY), for putting together this energy and water appropriation bill on a genuine bipartisan basis. This bill, because of their leadership, funds vital flood control and water projects for communities throughout the Nation. It funds important energy and research programs.

I also commend the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY) for working hard to plus up about \$85 million in the administration's ill-advised and dangerous budget proposal that would have cut \$100 million from our programs designed to keep nuclear material and weapons out of the hands of terrorists.

I know this bill will pass by a strong margin on a bipartisan basis because of all the good things in it. However, Mr. Speaker, in good conscience I cannot remain silent about some decisions that have been made by this Congress, some of which go beyond the authority of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

I find it unbelievable, Mr. Speaker, unbelievable that just 1 week ago this House said that we could afford to give \$7.4 billion in unearned corporate rebate checks to just 16 Fortune 500 corporations. Yet, this Congress to date will have cut programs designed to keep nuclear weapons and materials away from terrorists.

I find it irresponsible and dangerous that even in light of the September 11 terrorist attacks, this House has said, in effect, by our votes that giving special huge tax breaks to corporations like General Motors, they got nearly \$1 billion, IBM got \$1.4 billion, General Electric a little under \$1 billion, that those tax rebate checks to those corporations are more important than